

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 CU-04 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 230650Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8568

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0850

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: IS SOME OF THE HEAT OFF THE BELGRADE EIGHT?

1. STUDENTS ARE BACK IN CLASS AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY AFTER MONTH'S SEMINAR BREAK. SITUATION THIS PAST WEEK, EVEN AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY QUIET. NO NEWS ON WHAT IS BEING DONE BY FACULTY COUNCIL (MEETINGS OF WHICH NO LONGER OPEN TO PUBLIC; SEE BELGRADE 0520) EXCEPT THAT COUNCIL EARLIER THIS MONTH VOTED ON AND APPROVED NEW FACULTY SELF-MANAGING STATUTE (BELGRADE 0438).

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT HAS COME IN ONE PART OF SPEECH BEFORE SELF-MANAGERS CONFERENCE IN KRAGUJEVAC FEB 16 (SEE ALSO BELGRADE 0783) BY SECRETARY OF LCY EXECUTIVE BUREAU STANE DOLANC. HE MADE EFFORT TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE TERMED "SO CALLED AFFAIR" OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY EIGHT, WHO WERE "ALSO LINKED WITH SOME SMALL GROUPS IN ZAGREB AND LJUBLJANA". DOLANC SAID HE DID NOT THINK PROFESSORS REPRESENTED BIG POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR YUGOSLAVIA SINCE THEY AND CERTAIN NUMBER OF STUDENTS DEFENDING THEM HADDONE NOTHING AT ALL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF

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YUGOSLAV SOCIETY, HUMANISM OR SELF-MANAGEMENT. STRUGGLE

AGAINST PHILOSOPHERS WAS NOT (RPT NOT) "ONE OF OUR VERY IMPORTANT TASKS". BLACK TANGU BULLETIN ACCOUNT OF SPEECH WENT BEYOND PRESS ACCOUNTS TO QUOTE DOLANC THUS: "THEY (PROFESSORS) WILL FALL OFF BY THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEIR CONCEPTS CANNOT BECOME PART OF BROADEST POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL CONCEPT ACCEPTED BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF OUR WORKING PEOPLE".

3. DOLANC TOOK OCCASION TO SCOLD FOREIGN NEWSMEN FOR CONCENTRATING ON THESE PROFESSORS AS ONE OF CENTRAL POLITICAL ISSUES OF CONTEMPORARY YUGOSLAV SOCIETY AND FOR WRITING THAT THERE WAS NO HUMANISM, NO DEMOCRACY IN YUGOSLAVIA, THAT COUNTRY WAS "MOVING TOWARD THE EAST, TOWARD THE CAMP, TOWARD STALINISM". IF THEY WERE SO INTERESTED IN DEMOCRACY AND HUMANISM, WHY, HE ASKED, WERE NO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THERE IN KRAGUJEVAC AT GATHERING OF SELF-MANAGERS, WHO WERE DISCUSSING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SHORTCOMINGS, THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF YUGOSLAV DEMOCRACY AND YUGOSLAV SOCIAL RELATIONS?

4. COMMENT: DOLANC SPEECH TAKES DIFFERENT TACK THAN THAT OF BILIC WEEK EARLIER (BELGRADE 0656) IN DISCOUNTING DANGER OR IMPORTANCE OF DISSIDENT PROFESSORS. DOLANC'S TALK ABOUT THESE PROFESSORS FALLING OFF BY THEMSELVES APPEARS TO US AS SIGNAL FROM PARTY LEADERSHIP THAT THERE IS TO BE NO DIRECT INTERVENTION AT THIS TIME BY PARTY OR GOVERNMENT AT ANY LEVEL TO OUST PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY EIGHT, THAT CASE AGAINST EIGHT WILL BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED AT ITS OWN PACE INSIDE LEGALLY-AUTHORIZED FORUM OF FACULTY COUNCIL. CHANCES THUS SEEM IMPROVED FOR PROFESSORS TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE SOLUTION WITH UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES MORE FAVORABLE TO THE EIGHT THAN HAD APPEARED THE CASE JUST FEW WEEKS AGO (BUT PRESUMABLY INCLUDING PROMISES ON PART OF THE EIGHT TO GET OUT OF PUBLIC EYE FOR CERTAIN TIME).JOHNSON

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